

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

School Education – RVM(SSA) – RTE Act – Children with Special Needs (CwSN) – Implementation of early child intervention and childhood education programme under Inclusive Education, RVM(SSA) - Fixing lower Age Limit from 6 years to 4 years for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) – Orders – Issued.

SCHOOL EDUCATION (PE-SSA) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 3

Dated: 09.01.2012
Read the following:-

1. The persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights & full participation) Act, 1995.
2. Gazette of India – Extra ordinary – Part II – Section1, No. 39, New Delhi issued by Ministry of Law & Justice on the Right of Children to Free and compulsory Education Act, 2009 – (Central Act No. 35 of 2009). Dated: 26.08.2009.
3. G.O.Ms.No.20, School Education (PE-Prog.1) Department, dated.03.03.2011.
4. From the State Project Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission(SSA), A.P., Hyderabad, C.No.74/RVM(SSA)/IE/B14/2011, dated. 19.12.2011

ORDER:-

According to Section 26 (a) under Chapter V of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, the State Government shall ensure that every child with a disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment till he attains the age of eighteen years.

2. The Government of India enacted the RTE Act 2009, vide reference 2nd read above. Accordingly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued the AP Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules 2010, to provide Free and Compulsory Education to the Children in the age group of 6-14 years, vide reference 3rd read above. The Sub section (4) of Section 3 of said Rules envisages that a child suffering from disability shall have the right to pursue free and compulsory elementary education on par with other children.

3. In the reference 4th read above, the State Project Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission (SSA) has informed that AP RVM (SSA) is implementing the activities for Children with Special Needs (CwSN) in the age group of 6-14 years under Inclusive Education Programme, as per the provision of RTE Act, 2009. He has further informed that in order to bring all the Children with Special Needs (CwSN) to mainstream education, it was proposed to provide basic inputs like communication skills, self help skills and basic academic skills through early intervention programme from the age of one year as per the child's requirement. However, the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan guidelines limit the age norm from 6-14 years, with the minimum age for SSA programme at 6 years.

4. He has further stated that a meeting was held on 19.09.2011 by Principal Secretary to Government (PE) with the State Project Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission(SSA), A.P., Hyderabad, the State Inclusive Education Coordinator and the Chief Coordinator for Inclusive Education, EdCIL, New Delhi, and it was decided to implement the early intervention programme for Children with Special Needs from the age of 4 years.

5. The State Project Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission(SSA), A.P., Hyderabad, has therefore, requested the Government to consider lowering the age limit for Children with Special Needs from 6 years to 4 years for implementation of early child intervention and childhood education programme under Inclusive Education, Rajiv Vidya Mission (SSA).

6. The Government, after careful examination of the request of the State Project Director and in order to bring the Children with Special Needs into mainstream education hereby fix the lower age 4years, instead of 6 years for Children with Special Needs, for implementation of early child intervention and Childhood education programme, i.e., to

(P.T.O.)

provide basic inputs like communication skills, self help skills and basic academic skills, under Inclusive Education, Rajiv Vidya Mission (SSA) for effective results in coordination with appropriate State Government implementing agencies.

7. The State Project Director shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**CHANDANA KHAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (PE).**

To

The State Project Director, Rajiv Vidya Mission(SSA), AP., Hyderabad

The Chief Consultant for Inclusive Education, EdCIL, New Delhi.

The Department of School Education, Ministry for Human Resource Development, New Delhi

The Women, Children, Disabled Welfare and Senior Citizens Department, A.P. Secretariat, Hyderabad

The Commissioner of Disabled Welfare Department, A.P. Secretariat, Hyderabad

Copy to

P.S to M(PE&SSA)

P.S. to Chief Secretary to Government

P.S. to Principal Secretary to Government (PE)

SF/SC

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER.